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9th Infantry Division Association

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The Octofoil, April/May/June 2007

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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Ninth Infantry Division Association, "The Octofoil, April/May/June 2007" (2007). *The Octofoil*. 367.
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The Octofoil

Apr.-May-Jun.
2007

Volume LXII, No. 2

President's Message

It is my sad duty to report our National President and good friend Jim Dawson passed away on April 3, 2007.

As 1st Vice President of the Ninth Infantry Division Association I became the President until a new person can be named at our next reunion.

The Grand Rapids, Michigan Reunion is coming along fine and I hope as many of you as possible will try to attend this Reunion.

All of us have lost many good friends and buddies during the last couple of years. Our numbers are getting smaller each year.

I hope to see many of you in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 17th, 18th and 19th.

Sincerely,
Tom Hatton, President
Ninth Infantry Division Association

Report of the Acting Secretary Housekeeping Chores

As most of you know by now, I have taken on the job of Acting Secretary until the President and the Board of Governors are able to find a replacement. I will continue to serve until the Reunion in Grand Rapids.

The main purpose of this report is to get everyone to do the same thing in regard to membership renewals, Octofoil articles, Memorial Fund Donations, Mailing Addresses, and several other things.

First: This is very important. Whenever you send money to the Association, please make sure the check is made payable to the Division Association, and that it is sent directly to the Treasurer.

We have been getting checks payable to "The Octofoil", to individuals, and to "The Memorial Fund". **Any and All Checks** should be made payable to "The Ninth Infantry Division Association", and when money is sent in for reunion payments those checks should be made payable to, as this year, "62nd Reunion 2007." In the future that will change to reflect the year of the reunion. This is important as we do not have separate bank accounts in these different names, and many times we have to send checks back to have them made out again. This can be avoided by making them payable properly the first time.

Second: Articles for the Octofoil should be sent directly to the editor, and his name and address is on the inside back cover of the Octofoil. Any money sent to him just has to be forwarded to me, so that causes a few days delay. This is not a problem as long as the check is made out properly.

Third: Memorial Fund Donations can be sent in to the Octofoil if an obituary or story is included, but the check should be made out to the Association and not to the Memorial Fund, otherwise, send donations of any kind directly to the Treasurer.

Fourth: Also very important. We are mailing about 1150 copies of each issue of the Octofoil, and we still get a lot returned by the Post Office. Many of you have not sent in changes of address, and when that happens, the Post Office will only forward mail for one year. When this forwarding time expires, PO then returns the mail to us, including the new address. This causes us to have to re-mail that issue, and that in turn costs us additional postage. Please keep your address current with us. Another return from the PO says "Temporarily Away From Home." When we get some back like this we have no idea how long to hold them before re-mailing them. If you are only going to be away from home a few

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www.octofoil.org

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OUR MISSION

This Association is formed by the officers and men of the Ninth Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the Ninth Infantry Division.

days or weeks, have your mail held by your local PO, or have a neighbor pick up your mail and hold it for you. The last issue of the Octofoil cost us an additional \$40.00 in postage that we should not have had to spend. Please keep your addresses current.

Fifth: **CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD**— Many have not paid for several years, and we do not know why. If you are a Life Member, this does not apply to you. For those who pay for 1 year or 3 years at a time, please remember that we operate on a Fiscal Year from July 1 to June 30. On June 30th memberships expire. You must then renew for another 1 or 3 year period. Your membership card should show the years you are paid for. If your card says paid for 2007, then your membership will expire on June 30, 2007. We are going to check membership cards this year when you register at the reunion. If you are not up-to-date, be prepared to pay the necessary dues to bring you up-to-date at that time. Remember, if your dues are not paid up-to-date, you are not eligible to vote at the Business Meeting, you may be dropped from the Octofoil mailing list, and at the greatest extreme, you could be dropped from membership also.

Below you will find a report on the upcoming reunion in Grand Rapids. We are going to have a pretty good crowd again this year.

Bill Robey, Acting Secretary

62nd REUNION REPORT

The deadline for your final payments has passed, July 1, 2007, was the deadline. If you have not made your final payment, I will give you until July 8, 2007, to allow for late mail delivery. If not received by me by that date, your deposit will be refunded and your reservation will be cancelled. We cannot hold the deadline any further than this as we have to settle with the hotel by July 15, 2007.

The 62nd Reunion is shaping up to be one that will be of interest to everyone attending this year. For instance, the normal Friday night Beer Party is changing a little bit. This year instead of just beer and munchies, there will be a Pizza Party including beer, pizza and munchies. This may be able to replace dinner if you are not too hungry. The amount of pizza may be limited, but the amount of beer will not be diminished by any means.

Also, on Saturday night the dinner will be away from the hotel as in the past. This time, buses will take everyone to the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum for a visit to the museum and a catered dinner at the museum. You will have time to look around the museum and to see President Ford's burial site. We couldn't find another paddlewheel steamer dinner, and so George Brown will not be able to become another show stopper star this year.

As of the writing of this report, June 20, 2007, we have arrived at the magic number of 84 room reservations, and 152 people. The discrepancy between the number of rooms and the total participants is due to having many single rooms reserved. This is just about the same numbers we had in Branson last year.

If any of you who live close to Grand Rapids would

like to attend individual events, please see the last issue of the Octofoil for the costs and get your money in to me right away. The July 8 deadline pertains here as well.

One of the more interesting things that I have done this month was to attend the reunion of the Florida Chapter of the Division Association. I went there to help them with their proposal to have the 2008 reunion in the Orlando, Florida area. We checked out three different hotels, and they have settled on the one they would like to deal with for the reunion. The proposal will be submitted to the Board of Governors at the Grand Rapids Reunion, and if it is approved, then details will be in the Octofoil to be published the first week of October this year. In talking to their members at the reunion I was able to establish that those who were present were current in their dues, and I was able to add several unit designations to our records that I did not already have.

There will be more details about the Florida Chapter in their article elsewhere in this Octofoil, so please read that one also.

We have been fortunate to have Erik and Kaye Olson working on getting door prizes and other gifts for us this year. One of the gifts they have gotten donated to us is from the Ford Motor Company. They are donating a scale model of a Ford Mustang, personally autographed by William Ford, President of Ford Motor Company. This is such a nice gift that we decided not to give it away, but rather to raffle it off, and tickets will be sold at the registration desk. There will be gifts given away at the Friday night reception, at the Gerald Ford Museum, and the rest at the Banquet on Sunday night. Kaye and her husband have done a tremendous job in getting donations of door prizes. When you get to the reunion you will be given a program book that will include a couple of pages listing the people and companies who have donated gifts.

This is all for now, and I will see you in Grand Rapids in August.

Bill Robey, Co-Chairman
2007 Reunion

PROPOSED CHANGES TO ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

The following changes are proposed for consideration at the Board of Governors meeting on August 17, 2007, in Grand Rapids, MI. Most of the changes are simply one word or two word changes in Officer Titles.

Article IV, Section 1:	SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER
Section 5:	SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER
Section 8:	SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER
Section 9:	SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER
Section 10:	SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER

Article VII, Section 1: List of officers-the officers of the Corporation shall be chosen by the Board of Governors and shall consist of a President, First, Second and Third
continued on page 16

TIP OF THE HAT

We thank the following members and friends for re-membering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

Note: Please make checks payable to:

The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Send to:

William G. Robey, Treasurer
1005 Elkhart Street
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Anonymous Donor to the Association General Fund

John Compel in memory of his loving wife Emma Tillie Compel

Herb Stern in memory of Dick Solar, Willard Norris and Jim Dawson

Mary Doering in memory of Rose Bonkowski and Jim Dawson

George Brown in memory of Jim Dawson, Rose Bonkowski and Al Ferrante

Michigan Chapter in memory of James C. Dawson

Kathleen Fowler Barto in memory of her father H. Seymour "Bus" Fowler

Charles & Sandra R. Blackmer in memory of James C. Dawson

Rick Ferrara in memory of Jim Dawson

Marvin Toothaker in memory of Leonard West, Co. D-39th Infantry Regiment

Jack Collier in memory of Joseph J. Horvatis

Jack R. Blann in memory of Jim Dawson and Willard Norris

John Bonkowski in memory of his beloved wife Rose and all our departed friends

Robert Watts in memory of Capt. Leon Birum, Sgt. Stanley Serwent, Robert Armstrong, William Coen, William Arnold

William Ewald donation to Memorial Fund

Ernest G. Micka in honor of Charlie Hoffman, "B" Co., 15th Engineers, 3rd Platoon

Louis M. Prince in memory of all his fallen comrades of the 60th Field Artillery Battalion

"Lest We Forget"

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
WORCHESTER MEMORIAL SERVICE
October 27 & 28, 2007

Contact Herbert E. Olsen, [REDACTED]

Novinger, MO Resident Honors Veteran's

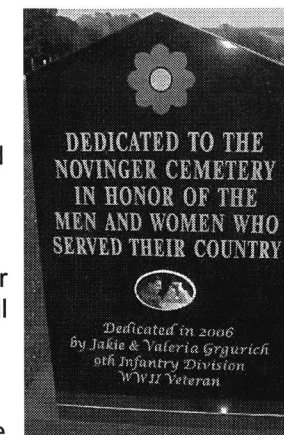
Jakie Grgurich celebrated the dedication of a Veteran's Monument placed in the Novinger Cemetery on December 2, 2006.

Jakie joined the Army in 1942 and went for basic training at Fort Eworn, WY. By August 1943 he had joined the 9th Infantry Division and participated in the landing at Palermo, Sicily. He served with distinction through all the Division's campaigns earning the Bronze Star for heroic achievement on April 18, 1945 near Madgesprung, Germany. When his truck was ambushed he saved himself and his vehicle while under fire. He married Valeria Jakubiak on June 30, 1945 in Hoose, Belgium and was discharged on October 2, 1945 returning home to Novinger, MO. He served during the Korean Crisis and retired from the Missouri Army National Guard in 1977. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans organization and has performed over 610 military funerals. Five of the six Grgurich brothers (Joseph, Jack, Jakie, Melvin and Tony) served in the Armed Forces.

Jakie and his brother Tony Grgurich in the Armed Forces

Lt. Col. John Buckwalter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Ret.) said "This afternoon we recognize one organization in particular and thank one veteran specially: the 9th Infantry Division and Jakie Grgurich. Old Reliable's - that is the nickname of the 9th. The men who proudly wore the Octofoil, and I can't think of a better way to describe Jakie and the other WWII veteran's of Novinger and Adair County...Today, we take a moment to thank and remember all the veteran's: those of the 9th, the 1st, the dog-faces of the 3rd Infantry Division, the members of the 32nd Red Arrow Division, the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen of WWII, and all our nation's conflicts before and since. Thank you."

Jakie and Children
l to r: Eugene, Frank, Jakie, James,
Edward, Evelyn, Joanne, Carol





TAPS SOUNDED

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping—ground their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.



Ninth Infantry Division Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients

S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944
2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944
T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944
Sgt. William J. Nelson*, Co. H, 60th Infantry; Djegel Dardys, NW of Sedjenane, Tunisia; 24 April 1943
PFC Carl V. Sheridan*, Co. K, 47th Infantry; Frenzerberg Castle, Germany; 26 November 1944
Captain Matt L. Urban, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Renouf, France; 14 June to 3 September, 1944

* indicates posthumously awarded

Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

Billy Allsbrook Co. G-39th Inf. Regt.	Ed Gowen Co. A-15th Engr. Bn.	Hague O'Quinn 47th Inf. Medics	Joseph M. Gustamachio Co. M-60th Inf. Regt.
Thomas L. Cobb Hq Co.-47th Inf. Regt.	Joseph J. Horvatis Co. C-47th Inf. Regt.	Duane L. "Ike" Rohovit Hqs & Hqs Btry-26th FA	Pasquale L. "Pat" DeColli
James C. Dawson Hq Co.-47th Inf. Regt.	Gordon F. Mork 47th Inf. Regt.	Hugh Siebert Vicars Co. M-60th Inf. Regt.	Philip Jackson Gilbert Co. M-60th Inf. Regt.
H. Seymour "Bus" Fowler	Sidney Ginsberg	Gifford Persing 39th Inf. Regt.	Edwin Lusk Co.'s B & M-60th Inf. Regt.
Edward Leddy			

TAPS LETTERS

Gordon F. Mork 47th Infantry Regiment

I really don't know where to send this letter and hope you get it. I'm writing and sending you my husband's obituary who's name is Gordon Mork from Jamesville, WI.

He enjoyed the Octofoil so much and was with the 9th Division-47th Infantry stationed in Europe and served in Army from Aug. 10, 1942—March 1, 1945. He would of wanted me to send this to you and have it put in The Octofoil.

Please do send me the next Octofoil with Gordon's obituary in it. Me and my sons would appreciate it so much.

He was a wonderful husband and father. He received the Purple Heart and 4 Battle Stars.

Thank you.

Virginia Mork (Gordon's wife of 54 years)

April 9, 2007

Billy Allsbrook Co. G-39th Infantry Regiment

My father, Billy Allsbrook, passed away November 4, 2006. He was a member of the 9th Infantry Division, Company G, 39th Regiment. He was friends with Sam Burns. Sam attended the funeral, and there was not a "dry eye in the house" when, as Sam approached Daddy's flag-draped casket to pay his respects, he saluted.

Daddy was proud of his military service and his association with the 9th. We have lost one great patriot!

Thank you! Carolyn Quinn (email 3/16/07)

Sidney Ginsberg

I am sad to report the death of my father Sidney Ginsberg on March 16, 2007. My father served our country during WWII in the European Theater of Operations.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of his obituary which I placed in the New York Times. Unfortunately, I had omitted his participation in the Battle of the Bulge. The article in the Times speaks to his heroism during the war. He was a hero to his family. Throughout his life, there was nothing that he would not do for his family. My family and I will miss him very much.

He was born in Brooklyn on May 29, 1917 to Henrietta and Edward Ginsberg. Other than his service in the Army, he remained in Brooklyn for most of his life.

My father did not speak very much about the war. It was interesting that when someone asked him if he saw the movie "Saving Private Ryan", he answered, "no, I lived it." This seemed very appropriate for a WWII veteran who experienced all the difficulties and horrors of war.

If anyone knew my father, I would very much appreciate hearing from them. I enjoy reading the Octofoil, because my father was in no shape to so during his last few years.

Very truly yours,
Joan Zisken

April 10, 2007

TAPS LETTERS

Duane L. "Ike" Rohovit. Hqs & Hqs Btry-26th Field Artillery Battalion

Unfortunately I must report the death of one of my closet wartime "buddies", Duane "Ike" Rohovit. He was a member of the 26th FA Bn, Fire Detection Center, Hdqs and Hdqs Btry 26 FA Bn and served as the computer for A Btry through the whole war. "Ike" attained the rank of T/4. He and I pitched our pup tents together from Algeria through Tunisia, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany. After the war we kept in touch and I visited him in his hometown of Jefferson, Iowa a few times. He was very much a "homebody", and never wandered very far from his home. To my knowledge he was the last member of the FDC, other than me. If there are others, they have not maintained contact.

I am enclosing a copy of his obituary, which his wife sent to me.

Sincerely,
John J. Clouser

May 2, 2007

Hugh Siebert Vicars Co. M-60th Infantry Regiment

I wish to inform you of my dear husband's passing August 28, 2006. He served in North Africa, Sicily, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, and Germany. He was in eight battle campaigns and was injured three times.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Louise Vicars

March 15, 2007

H. Seymour "Bus" Fowler

It is with profound sadness that I wish to inform you of the passing of my father, H. Seymour "Bus" Fowler. He was born Mar. 1, 1919 in Detroit, Michigan. On Feb. 22, 2007, he passed away in State College, Pennsylvania. He married Kathleen Marshall on Nov. 21, 1945. She preceded him in death on June 10, 1977.

He remained intensely devoted to his country and the Ninth Division, but found it difficult to talk about his service during WWII. According to his discharge papers, he served in Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Sicily, and Tunisia.

Upon returning from the war, he earned a Masters and Doctorate from Cornell University. He then began his college teaching career at the Southern Oregon College in Ashland, Oregon. His next teaching position was at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. In 1957, he accepted a position in the College of Education at the Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. While at Penn State, he held many teaching and administrative positions. But he was most proud of the 50+ doctoral dissertations he directed. During the 1968-1969 academic year, he was a Fulbright Lecturer in the Republic of Korea. He retired from Penn State as Professor Emeritus in 1982.

During his life, he belonged to several professional, honorary and service organizations. He was particularly active in Rotary International, serving as District 735 Governor in 1988-1989. He also prepared the revision of the Second Edition of E.L. Palmer's "Fieldbook of National History."

My family and I would like to personally thank all members of the Ninth Division and all veterans for the sacrifices they have made to protect the freedoms that we enjoy in the United State of America.

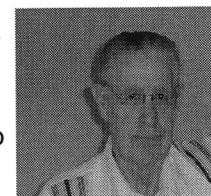
Kathleen Fowler Barto

TAPS OBITUARIES

Thomas L. Cobb 1918—2007

Mr. Thomas Lovick Cobb, age 89, of Decatur died Wednesday, March 7, 2007. He was a highly decorated veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army. Mr. Cobb was a master carpenter, loving uncle and good friend to many people. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Ralph Cobb and Suzie; sisters and brother-in-law, Lucille Anderson and Winston, Rachel Cates; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, March 10th in the chapel of A.S. Turner & Sons. Rev. William Anderson, grandnephew, will officiate. Interment will be at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church. Those desiring may send contributions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 760 Pollard Ave., S.W., Atlanta, GA 30315. The family will receive friends from 2:00 to 4:00 PM and 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Friday at A.S. Turner & Sons.

Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



James C. Dawson 1921—2007

Services for James C. Dawson, 86, Houghton Lake, are scheduled for 1 PM April 7 at the Christler Funeral Home-Prudenville Chapel. Visitation is

scheduled from 10 AM to 8 PM, April 6. Burial in Crestview Cemetery, Markey Township, is to follow the funeral, to be conducted by Lonnie Severance. Mr. Dawson died at his home April 3, 2007.

Born in Detroit Jan. 3, 1921, he was the son of Hugh and Sadie (Thornton) Dawson. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He married Edith L. Johnson in Detroit Feb. 6, 1948. Mr. Dawson was a retired insurance agent. The couple moved to Houghton Lake from West Bloomfield 17 years ago. Mrs. Dawson died in April, 2002.

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TAPS OBITUARIES

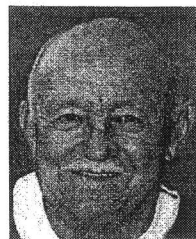
Mr. Dawson also was preceded in death by his daughter, Donna, in September, 2005

Mr. Dawson was national president of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, a group of World War II veterans.

Surviving are a son, Charles and his wife Kathy Dawson of Bloomfield Hills; two daughters, Ruth and her husband Russell Feole and Barbara and her husband Dean Allen, both of Prudenville; three grandchildren, Kimberly, Christine and Robert; and seven great-grandchildren, Dean, Justin, Jessica, Richard, Shawn, Mikhal and Jacob.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

© The Houghton Lake Resorter 2007



Gordon F. Mork
1921—2006

Gordon F. Mork, beloved husband and father, age 85, of 1407 N. Oakhill Ave. died Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006, at Mercy Hospital. He was born in Iola, WI, on Aug. 13, 1921, the son of Martin and Oveida (Thoe) Mork and was a 1939 graduate of

Iola High School. Gordon served in the U.S. Army from Aug. 10, 1942-March 1, 1945, with the 9th Division, 47th Infantry stationed in Europe. He was awarded citations for Combat Infantry and received the Purple Heart and 4 battle stars. He married Virginia M. Knutson on Dec. 27, 1952, at First Lutheran Church, Ogdensburg, WI. Gordon was employed at JATCO for 21 years. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church, the National Rifle Association, Sheveland Taylor American Legion Post 14, Iola, and Kienow Hilt VFW Post 1621, Janesville. He loved to go fishing, hunting, and rifle shooting.

He is survived by his loving wife, Virginia; 2 sons John (Pat) Mork of Janesville, and Tony Mork of Madison; 2 sisters, Phyllis (Emmett) Boyce of Greendale, WI, and Eileen Brown of Milwaukee; a brother, Leslie Mork of Madison; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Rosanna Mallek; and 3 brothers: Roger, Kenneth, and Bill Mork.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Dr. Gruhn, Dr. Peterson, and Dr. Rainiero as well as to the nurses and staff at both Dean Riverview Clinic and Mercy Hospital for the wonderful care and concern given to Gordon.

Sidney Ginsberg
1917—2007

WWII veteran, recipient of five bronze service stars, survivor of the D-Day Invasion, Bridge at Remagen, Liberation of Dachau, witness to his brother Harold's death while serving together in the 9th Division, succumbed at the age of 90 on March 16, 2007 to multiple medical problems.

A hero to his adoring daughter Joan and his son-in-law Bob whom he loved like a son, devoted granddaugh-

ter Stacey and her husband Andrew, loving grandson Richard and wife Suzanne, and great-grandchildren Jack and Annabel. We all loved him and will miss him dearly. The world has lost a true hero. A memorial service will be held on Monday, March 19, 2007 at 10:00 AM at I.J. Morris,

Published in The New York Times

Duane Lowell Rohovit
"Ike"
1919—2007

Duane "Ike" Rohovit, the son of Issac and Ida Mae (Lyon) Rohovit, was born September 23, 1919 at Jefferson Iowa and departed this life March 12, 2007 at the Solon Care Center in Solon, Iowa. He lived his life to the age of 87 years, 5 months and 19 days.

Ike attended and graduated from the Jefferson High School in 1938 and later attended Buena Vista College for one year. Ike joined the National Guard in 1937. He enlisted in the United States Army in June of 1942 and served as a sergeant until his discharge in September of 1945. He returned serving in the National Guard until 1948. On November 13, 1948, Duane Rohovit was united in marriage to M. Bernice Wagner at West Bend, Iowa. To this union were born four children. Ike worked for 43 years for the Iowa Department of Transportation as a road inspector based out of Jefferson and retired to Iowa City to be close to their family. Ike had been a resident of the Solon Care Center since 2005.

Ike was a member of the Jefferson Central Christian Church. He was a charter member of the Jefferson Elks Lodge #2306 and a member of the Jefferson VFW. Ike enjoyed playing the banjo and gardening. He was a long time Iowa Hawkeye fan.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Bernice, three sons, Duane Jr., and his partner, Dr. Angelito Sajor, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ronnie and his wife, Deborah, of Los Angeles, California, Randy and his wife, Tami, of Iowa City, one daughter, Susan Warner and her husband, Mark of Iowa City, two grandchildren, Lindsey and Stefanie Warner, three step-children, Justin Sidwell and Adam and Kelsey Beck and many nieces and nephews. Those who preceded him in death were his parents, five brothers; Darrell, Louis, Leon, Clarence and Robert and three sisters; Clarice, Dorothy and Margaret.

A celebration of Ike's life was held Thursday, March 15, 2007 at the Brown Funeral Home in Jefferson with Rev. Les Borsay of the Central Christian Church officiating. Interment was made in the Jefferson City Cemetery. Musical selections, "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art" were sung by soloist, Sheilah Pound and accompanied by organist, Monica McGregor. An Elks Memorial service was held at 6:30 PM on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Casket bearers were Bob Owens, Ed Stoline, Jerry Deluhery, Warner Quirk, Tim Huebschman and John H. Smith. Honorary bearers were Lynn Holsclaw, Charles Trost, David Redfern, Clare Schroeder, Jerry Kelley and Jack Oatts.

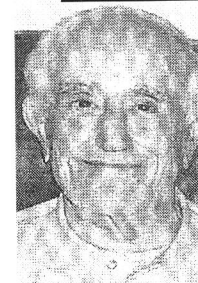
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TAPS OBITUARIES

"Ike" Rohovit

Friends and family are invited to at time of lunch and fellowship following the graveside services at Central Christian Church Fellowship Hall.

Memorials are suggested to be given to the Iowa City Hospice.



Joseph J. Horvatis
1925—2007

Joseph J. Horvatis was the man who made the painful process of preparing income taxes more user-friendly at the Buffalo branch of the Internal Revenue Service.

As chief of the Taxpayer Service Division here for nearly 20 years, he was

the public face of the IRS in Buffalo in the 1960s and 1970s, and introduced several innovations that helped ease Western New Yorkers through the federal tax forms.

He started the telephone system, which allowed taxpayers to call in their questions instead of having to appear in person. He also inaugurated the Taxpayer Assistance Van, which took forms and IRS tax specialists to serve taxpayers at various locations throughout the area, notably in front of City Hall to accept returns on tax deadline day.

During tax season, he also was a regular guest on John Otto's radio call-in show fielding questions from the listeners.

Mr. Horvatis died Wednesday in Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, Amherst. He was 81.

Born in Buffalo, he graduated from Hutchinson Central High School and served in the Army in the 9th Infantry Division during World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and at St. Lo.

He received the Bronze Star for rescuing comrades behind enemy lines, and the Purple Heart for the wounds he suffered when he stepped on a land mine while storming an enemy pillbox at Monschau. He underwent 13 orthopedic operations on one of his legs and was hospitalized for two years. He was rated 80 percent disabled.

Returning to Buffalo, he began working for the Veterans Administration and attending Canisius College, where he earned a bachelor's degree. Joining the IRS as a revenue officer, he advanced to division chief. After he retired in 1980, the branch established an annual award in his name that is given to employees who provide exceptional service.

A resident of the Cleveland Hill section of Cheektowaga for many years, he built a home in Clarence after he retired. He traveled extensively and was an avid fisherman.

Mr. Horvatis was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, the former Mildred "Mollie" Kirisitis; five daughters, Suzanne Tozer, Christine Blackwood, Deborah Zubricky, Cynthia Wintringer and Lisa Brand; and a sister, Teresa McMullen.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 AM Saturday in Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 10950 Main St., Clarence.

Published in The Buffalo News

Philip Jackson Gilbert
1918—2006



GARDNER—Philip Jackson Gilbert, 88, of Gradner passed away Friday, November 0, 2006 at Heritage Manor in Dwight.

He was born July 7, 1918 in Lafayette, Indiana to Harry Lester and Opal Lucille (Bryant) Gilbert. He was a veteran of the United States Army, having served during World War II. He was a sergeant in the Army, where he received four Purple Hearts.

Philip was a school bus driver for 30 years in the Reddick and Herscher area. He also farmed in Reddick for many years.

Surviving are his extended family: Majorie (Harold) Mahler of Gardner, Patricia (Donald Sr.) Farrer of Lemont, William (Faye Lynn) Malek of South Wilmington, and Deborah (James) Kratochvil of Gardner; four nieces, Shirley beatty of Auburn, Indiana; Kathryn Dove of Butler, Indiana; Barbara Reinhart of Nelson, Missouri; and Lorida Kilbride of Essex; and four nephews, Keith Anderson of Butler, Indiana; Phillip Bryant of Plainfield; and Rodney Bryant of Essex.

He was preceded in death by his special friend, Vivian (McComb) Malek Wise; and several brothers and sisters.

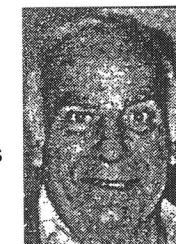
Funeral services were held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd., Briardwood Chapel, Tuesday, November 14, at 7 PM with Rev. Jan Chandler officiating.

Inurnment will be Thursday, November 16, at 1 PM at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood.

Visitation was for two hours preceding services with cremation rites accorded after the funeral service.

Memorials in his name may be made to the Church of Hope or Zoar Community Church.

Joseph M. Gustamachio
1920—2006



NORWICH—Joseph M. Gustamachio, 86, Husband of the late Nellie (Misiorek) Gustamachio, formerly of 30 Clairmont Ave., Norwich, died Saturday evening at Fountain View Health Care in Waterford. Born in Norwich on June 1, 1920, he was the son of the late John and Frances (Levanto) Gustamachio.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe, and received the Purple Heart, and was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal. A member of the VFW Post 594 of Norwich, he was also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Prior to his retirement, he was employed in production at King Seely American Thermos of Norwich.

continued on page 19

TAPS TRIBUTES



Robert G. Barnhart
47th Infantry Regiment

Given a Second Lifetime

For the past several months I have been reading current and back issues of *World War II*, which my mother gave me following the death of my father, Robert G. Barnhart. I had been unaware that your magazine was such an important part of his life in his later years.

My father served in Europe with the 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, and like so many veterans he didn't discuss his experiences in the war. As he grew older, however, he became more open. In 1995 he agreed to accompany my mother, my wife and me to Germany. We had a great trip together, retracing the footsteps he had taken 50 years earlier in Schmidt, Bonn, Remagen and a small village in the Ruhr River valley. My father started to reminisce about his war experiences, particularly his all-night trip to Remagen by truck, crossing the bridge there under fire, commandeering a German house early in the morning on March 8 and frying potatoes while waiting for additional troops to build up on the east side of the bridgehead.

Several miles to the east, we reached Vettelschloss, the village where he had been wounded by artillery, before moving on to Oberkirchen. He grew very quiet and reflective, because it was here, in the "Ruhr Pocket," that he had experienced some of his fiercest combat and his most terrifying days. He remembered sniper fire hitting the door frame above his head, and German soldiers marching toward him and his comrades, their hobnail boots striking the cobblestone pavement.

In December 2005, my father was diagnosed with a fast-growing lung cancer. I made three trips to Ohio to see him that winter. He was a man of few words, but he had a strong sense of family. He was determined to celebrate his 58th wedding anniversary with my mother on March 4, and to celebrate it with us, too. The following week, he lingered, growing steadily weaker, and I was called back to Ohio on Saturday, March 11. Two days later, as he struggled to breathe in the early morning hours, we all knew his time was short.

As I sat in a chair near him, I mentioned to my sister-in-law, who was hovering over him, that it was the 61st anniversary of the day he had been wounded in Germany. She had no idea what I was talking about, so I repeated it louder. She then told me that before I arrived my father had been asking what day it was, but they had no idea why he wanted to know.

The hospice nurse said hearing is one of our last senses to go. When my father realized what day it was, he started to settle down and became less agitated; then within 90 minutes or so, he was gone. He had reached the second anniversary date that had meant so much to him, his wounding in Germany on March 13, 1945.

As we lose more and more WWII veterans, it is

important for us to learn what they went through during those war years. I feel that in the end my persistent interest in where my father was and what he did during the war helped his passing. His near-death experience in 1945 must have seemed like a "rebirth" to him in the 61 years that followed. Your magazine and its stories helped him achieve closure in his second life. Thank you.

Terry R. Barnhart
Broomfield, CO

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Every Soldier Has a Story

Rev. Jeannie Higgins

Greetings, 9th Infantry Family,

I have been invited to speak at the upcoming Memorial Service at our 9th Infantry Reunion to be held in Grand Rapids. It would be so helpful to me if those who have lost a husband or father or uncle or friend from the 9th Infantry this past year, could provide me with some information about their loved one. I would very much like to celebrate their lives and accomplishments by sharing these during the memorial address. It goes without saying that I would not be able to use all the information, but it would give me a feel for "who they were" as we hear the stories of their lives. The title of my address will be "Every Soldier Has a Story."

Whatever you would like to say about your loved one in terms of who they were, how they were employed, accomplishments, family information, etc. would be helpful.

This information can be mailed to me: Rev. Jeannie Higgins,

The deadline would be August 1st.

Thank you so much.

Rev. Jeannie Higgins

Willard Norris

47th Infantry Regiment

During the past 15 years Willard Norris and I spent much time together during Chapter Reunions. He and his wife Malle had become true and wonderful friends. I was proud of him for publishing his life history during the last years of his life. We have lost a dear friend and patriot. Willard, we will miss you.

Herb Stern

Taps Tributes continued on page 20

CHAPTER AND AUXILIARY NEWS

TEXAS AND GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

We again met at Summers Mill on April 12-13, 2007, with five members in attendance. Sorrowfully, a long time member, Willard Norris, has answered the heavenly call. We were able to talk on the phone with his widow, Mable. Another call was placed to Ernie and Rose Botella who were unable to attend.

Jack Blann and Herb Stern were re-elected to their respective positions as President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Jack asked the members to report any changes to their addresses as the Post Office charges the National Association for each returned OCTOFOIL and cumulatively, this adds up to a considerable unnecessary expense.

The unanimous consent of the members, is that the new format of the OCTOFOIL is a great improvement. The Auxiliary deserves our sincere appreciation for their undertaking as well as the assistance they have provided at the National meetings.

Once again, the Ladies provided us with a bountiful Happy Hour, prior to the catered dinner.

The next meeting will be the 1st or 2nd week of November, again at Summers Mill. This will be a special occasion as the sons and daughters of the members are asked to attend.

Herb Stern called our attention to the fact that Chapter members have written and published four books. Those being Jack Blann, John Miller, Willard Norris and Charles Scheffel. Not bad for a small Chapter.

Those in attendance were M/M Jack Blann, Sam Burns and Anita Biver, M/M John Miller, M/M Herb Stern and Gordon Schneider.

Gordon A. Schneider

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

A SUPER FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION; What made the 2007 Florida Chapter Reunion an enjoyable success was the planning. Because it is becoming difficult for some members to walk, we changed the format this year so that we could spend more time together in the Hospitality Room. We eliminated any out-of-area activity during the day and concentrated on going to different attractions in the early evening. With this new format as our guide, Audrey De Donato did a superb job in stocking the Hospitality Room with all kinds of food stuff. There was shrimp, soup, several kinds of cheese, sandwich meats, salad, tomato & apple juice, bread, nuts, doughnuts, cakes, coffee, tea, milk etc., etc. while her husband Emil brought in all kinds of sodas, wine, beer and the booze.

Monday, June 11th: Registration Day. By 4:00 PM all 22 persons had arrived. 3 new members, Bill Robey, Ruselle Camp and George Bentley attended the reunion for the first time. Mr. & Mrs. Camp came from Slidell, LA, George Bentley arrived with his daughter Ina Gansert and

the National Organization Treasurer, Bill Robey drove in from Oxon Hill, MD. At 6:30 PM everyone settled in for a scrumptious Pizza Party. In addition to the pizza, the women made a fresh mixed salad. Other food items such as hot chicken wings, potato salad, coffee, tea, beer, wines and desserts were set up buffet style. Following the eating, a video tape of comedian Yakov Smirnoff was enjoyed. Yakov Smirnoff is the Russian comic who performs in Branson, MO. The camaraderie was continuous mostly about WWII, family news, grandkids and health problems. By 11 PM people were tired and went to bed.

Tuesday, June 12th: The Hospitality Room was open at 7:15 AM. Coffee was brewed, for breakfast one could enjoy orange or apple juice, bagels, doughnuts, cakes, cereal with their coffee. Those who chose to remain in the Hospitality Room for lunch enjoyed tasty sandwiches made by the women's auxiliary. All kinds of munchies, nuts, fruit drinks, etc. were set up on a long table for people to nibble on throughout the day. Displays, photos were set up for people to review. George Bentley brought many home-made peg board games which his daughter gave away free. Norris Gray brought literature of the Space Center, Herb Frank contributed discs about the war. Conversation was lively all day long. At 6:30 PM the group convoyed to Capone's Dinner/Show. The buffet was great. Over 15 different choices of Italian food. Pastas, meatballs, salads etc. plus all the wine, beer or soda that was available for the asking. The show was hilarious. Cast of 7 kept the audience laughing on their portrayal of the 1929 era of gangster Al Capone's racketeering days. The Master of Ceremonies gave the 9th Infantry Division a wonderful introduction honoring its veterans for their role in WWII. The audience responded with a loud applause while we were asked to stand.

Wednesday, June 13th: Breakfast in the Hospitality Room from 7:30 to 10:00 AM followed by the Men's Business and Women's Auxiliary Meetings. Highlights of the Men's Meeting were: (1) The election of officers for the next year were: Martin Gross, Pres., Col. Ralph Williams, V.P., Ed Gray, Sec., Emil De Donato, Treas., and H.F. Stansell, Chaplain. (2) Bill Robey spoke about the 9th Division Assn. Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He stated that the National Organization financial status is solvent now that dues have been raised and about the "Legacy Newsletter" that the Sons' & Daughter's are producing. Bill Robey joined the Florida Chapter and enjoyed the FL Chapter Reunion. (3) Pres. Gross named Col. Ralph Williams, Emil De Donato and himself to a committee to plan the next FL Chapter Reunion. (4) The possibility that the 2008 National Reunion may be held in Florida.

Highlights of the Women's Auxiliary Meeting were: (1) Rosalyn Gross was elected the new President to replace Lila Stansell who is recovering from a light stroke. (2) They prefer that the next FL Chapter Meeting be held at the same time as the National Reunion. (3) Voted to pay for the Pizza Party expenses. (4) Welcomed 2 new members: Ina Gansert (George Bentley's daughter) and Helen Camp of Slidell, LA.

continued on page 10

Correspondences

Wally Richardson, Sam Ledford, Alvin James, Arnold & Louise Tomanek, Charles & Joyce Munger, Lila & H.F. Stansell all wrote stating they could not make this reunion because of health problems. Charles Maravell, Lester Schwear and George Connolly wrote saying they moved. Belle Deliz, sister of the deceased Henry Santos, sent \$45.00 for stamps in honor of her late brother Henry.

Deceased

Gifford Persing, 4411 Fairlawn Dr., Orlando, FL, 32809 passed away on November 23, 2006. Gifford served with the 39th Infantry Regiment. Condolences to wife Betty.

Hague O'Quinn, 7810 SW 26th Pl., Gainesville, FL, 32607 died on March 30, 2006. He served with the 47th Infantry Medics.

Ed Gowen, 477 Water Way, Ocala, FL, 34472 passed away on June 12, 2007. Ed served with Co. A, 15th Eng. condolences to wife Pauline.

Thursday was departure day. Everyone without exception enjoyed the new format by spending many hours together in the Hospitality Room where food and beverages were plentiful and going out in the evenings. After good-byes, all departed for home...until we meet again.

P.S. Please send news, e-mail addresses etc. to:

**Happy Anniversary**

Audrey and Emil De Donato
56 years on February 4, 2007
Florida Chapter

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

On Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, 2007 the NY Chapter held its annual 9th Inf. Div. Memorial Service for its 4581 buddies lost in World War II and those who have since left us. We met at the VA National Cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island, NY at 10:00 AM on a cool, cloudy and rain threatening day.

Attending were: Betty & Joe Charvat, Charlotte & Anton Dietrich, Ed Harris, Emma & Joe Killen, Barbara & Marv Levy, Sadie & Joe Maiale, Norma & Dommer Miller, Bill Muldoon, John Tschupp, Viola & Tony Varone, Adolph Wadalavage and Genevieve & Al Zenka. We were elated that so many of those on our Chapter's previous sick call list could join us.

The Memorial Service

After a half-hour delay of late arrivals we assembled under a plastic canopy at the main flag pole where the

Boulevard of Flags flanked us. The rostrum with our Octofoil wreath and flag on either side faced the assembled. Yours truly, chapter president, opened the ceremony. I was joined by Joe Killen and Tony Varone who expressed their thoughts. We also had a unexpected audience of a high school musical brass group who were standing nearby, scheduled to perform Echo Taps at 11:30 AM for Armed Forces Day. Because we were running late, their musical director agreed with the cemetery director to perform as part of our ceremony. At the conclusion of our service the Taps were sounded, emanating soulfully from distant location throughout the hallowed grounds that brought lumps to our throats. We thanked the directors for their thoughtfulness and promised to be on schedule next year.

A Short Meeting

We then headed for the cemetery community room where we held a short meeting, dispensing with the previous minutes and financial report. Noted: Killen said Joe Rzesniowiecki was in a nursing home. Killen also donated to the Franklin Square Library, on behalf of the Chapter, Charles Scheffel's book of his experiences in WWII.

Meeting adjourned 12:40 PM and we drove to the Spartan Diner on Route 110 in Farmingdale for lunch. During lunch current president Marv Levy presented an honor plaque to Tony Varone, past president, for his 2006 able leadership.

NY Chapter reminder—don't forget to pay up your dues. It's now \$15.00 for one year, \$35.00 for 3 years and \$75.00 for a Lifetime membership. Make checks payable to The NY Area Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn. and mail to Treasurer Joseph Maiale, 906 3rd Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010.

LAST MINUTE NOTICE: Edward Leddy died on the morning of Father's Day, June 17, 2007 after a long illness. The NY Chapter sends its sincerest condolences to Ed's family.

Marv Levy, President/Recording Secretary
Greater New York Area Chapter



Cartoon 3. "Hey, Sarge, d'boy colonel's back 'n wants t'swap wunna his P-38s fer wunna our P-38s."

Courtesy of Henry G. "Red" Phillips

LADIES CORNER

Greetings to all the Ladies,

I want to apologize for missing the deadline for the last issue of The Octofoil.

I will try to make up for it by filling you in now.

The 2007 reunion is almost upon us so I want to advise you of our proposed agenda. With Jean Geary's help, the planner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel has set up our annual luncheon meeting for Saturday, August 18th from 11:30AM to 2:30PM. The menu will be: soup, sandwich, beverage, tax and gratuity included for \$12.00 per person. To confirm your reservation please **prepay by check payable to Jean Geary** no later than **July 15th**. Please send to her at: 1305 E. Livingston St.

Allentown, PA 18109

Don't forget to bring gifts for our Pollyanna giveaway, we need items for our raffle to be held at the banquet. As you know our raffle is our main source of income. Our donations will continue to go to our veterans at VA Hospitals around the country based on the monies raised. We also donate funds to the Ninth Infantry Division Association to defray costs in sending out The Octofoil. Our table is always in need of extra helping hands for selling raffle tickets etc., so come on by and sit with us for an hour or two, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Willy and I will be arriving in Grand Rapids on Thursday evening, August 16th. This reunion will be very special for us as our daughter, Lauri, will join us on August 17th. When Lauri was a little girl we lived back east and she attended every reunion with her dad and mom. Now that Lauri is a member of the Sons & Daughters Auxiliary she is looking forward to this reunion.

See you all in Grand Rapids on Friday, August 17th.

Sincerely,
Judy Goldsmith
President, Ladies Auxiliary of the Ninth Infantry
Division Association

MAIL CALL

Paul Schumacher

Here's the balance due for our Reunion in Michigan in August 2007.

And here's a comment I should have sent long ago: My wife Ellen and I both like the format and content of the Octofoil.

The print is clear and very readable for someone like me.

The editor has done an excellent job and the pictures are clear.

Paul Schumacher

MAIL CALL

Edsel K. Croan

I am Edsel K. Croan, Army of U.S., was replacement to Co. F, 47th Inf., 9th Div. for some 45 days as a rifleman until Captain Briggs sent me to the hospital. I ended up at Brooks Hospital at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. Medical discharged on July 29, 1945.

Edsel K. Croan

Hello Sons and Daughters of the 9th Division:

GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49534
Well can you believe we are almost there again—another great reunion with family and friends.

Some of us lost our precious dads this past year and this will be a difficult reunion for you. Please know that we have shoulders to cry on and we will understand and be there for you.

Once again we (the S&Ds) have been asked to work the registration for the reunion. As you know this room (and table) is open all weekend. So if you can volunteer to help man it sometime during the reunion, please email me as to your preference of day or times.

The officers of the S&Ds (John, William and myself) are arriving Thursday evening, so if any of you get to the hotel early, please join us.

We plan to gather every evening after the scheduled events to visit as we have in the past. As you remember from last year we are too big a group to meet in a guest hotel room, so we will gather somewhere in the hotel that will allow for our size. Some of this is still being planned. Just know we will be gathering and having a fun time again this year and making new memories. Those of you that are new to our group be sure to join us (don't be bashful).

Some of you have already emailed me times you will be able to volunteer at the registration table, but please email me again. This will allow for any changes that may have occurred in your schedule.

We will be having a general meeting of the Sons and Daughters during the reunion and will be collecting dues for the up coming year for any of you that would like to join at that time, as well as taking care of any business matters that have come up since our last meeting (and don't forget we will be voting on officers).

Everyone have safe trip getting to Grand Rapids—See ya there—

Mary Blann Cooper

Co. E-39th Infantry Regiment
Gilbert E. Gricoskie

I was a member of Co. E, 39th Regiment of 9th Division. I wish to sign up for a 3 year member.

In closing I would like to say "Hello" to the following Co. E members: Larry Faulkner, Wilbert Goldsmith, Joe Donovan, Manual Grajeda, Keith Lawer and Ward O. Payne.

And goodbye to Ken W. Hill, Richard Solar and John Sabato.

John J. Clouser

Enclosed is an "Open Letter", to the members of the Association and a proposal to amend the By-Laws. Will you please print them in the next issue of the "Octofoil", so the members will know of the proposals to be considered at the Reunion in Grand Rapids. Thank You.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

We are at a critical point in the history of our Association. In the last issue of the "Octofoil", our National President, James Dawson, stated that some members, "Are concerned about the continuation of our organization." He also said that differences must be set aside and, "Unity is a must." His message is very true, and germane at this critical place in the history of our Association.

This being the situation, I will make some comments and propose a possible solution to the problem. In my opinion if the Association is to continue functioning, we the members need to face the situation as it is. We must face reality and not disillusion ourselves that the Association will continue forever. It takes people to provide the work necessary to keep the organization functioning. The work has always been provided by members, but we have fewer and fewer men who are able and willing to furnish the necessary labor. Some of us have furnished the over the years, I as well as others, am not physically able to continue doing so. We should make use of those who are affiliated with our organization, and are able and willing to work. One case in pint is the Editorship of the "Octofoil." We are fortunate to have sons who are able to assume that duty. Other positions requiring work will need the same type of solution. To help in this process, I propose some additions to our By-Laws which will serve as the authority for the Board of Governors to provide the assistance necessary. In making this proposal, I do not see the members relinquishing the decision making power but rather provide a means for the Board to furnish the assistance necessary.

Proposed Additions:

1. The Board of Governors is authorized to appoint members of the "Sons and Daughters of the Ninth Infantry

Division Association," to positions assisting officers of the Association, when and if necessary to enable the Association to continue functioning properly.

2. The Board of Governors shall define the tasks to be performed by assistants to officers.

3. The appointed assistants shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Governors.

End of proposal.

An example of an appointed assistant is : an assistant to the secretary with the duties of maintaining an accurate membership list, notifying members when their dues are due, and take minutes of membership and Board meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
 John J. Clouser, Past National President

Rosemarie Werkman

Regarding Book, "Love, War & Remembrance" Thank you for including information regarding my book in the Sept.-Dec., 2006 Octofoil Mail Call. I appreciate that. However, the address to order a copy is (*see correct address above*). The price is \$10.00 per copy for members and/or their families of the Octofoil.

I think the new format of the Octofoil is just great and I appreciated all the 'leg-work' and effort that goes into publishing it. Thank you.

My husband, Hank Werkman (deceased) was part of the 39th Infantry, 9th Division, Co. H. Among his other accolades, he was awarded the Silver Star in Dec. '44... Hank was particularly proud of his affiliation with Paddy Flint's AAA-O.

Hank Werkman was the inspiration for my memoir, "Love, War & Remembrance"

Best wishes to all the GI's of the Ninth.

Sincerely
 Rosemarie Werkman

Mike and Ann Belmonte

Enclosed is our check for ...as deposit for the Reunion. Lord willing we will be there.

Also, we never had anything to put in the next Octofoil but do want to say we enjoy the new format.

Good luck.

Sincerely,
 Mike & Ann Belmonte

Co. F-60th Infantry Regiment
John W. Miller

Wanted to purchase 9th Inf. Div. Year Book 1941. My picture is in Co. F-60th along with Gus Pappas, J.P. Nehr. I misplaced mine. I like the new format.

Thanks

John W. Miller

(John also included the following combat report)

APRIL 23, 1943-APRIL 27, 1943

After Co. F took its objective, Djebel Mrota, on the morning of April 23, 1943, we were ordered to proceed and attack Djebel Dardye. After a long night's march over treacherous terrain, we arrived at our objective and began organizing our position.

It was a very foggy morning; we didn't take time to dig in. We found a low spot in the terrain and laid down. 1st Sgt. John Miller, S/Sgt. Joseph Boylan and Pfc. William Nichols occupied a position on the right flank of Co. F. They had just covered themselves with their blankets or whatever, and were catching a few winks when all hell broke loose. Miller's position was on the reverse side of the hill so the enemy had to expose themselves to fire on them.

About 5:30-6:00 a.m. machine gun fire whistled over their heads. Sgt. Boylan said, "What's going on?" Nichols crawled for better cover. Sgt. Miller looked up and saw three Germans (M.G. Squad) spraying the area with machine gun fire. They didn't see Miller. He grabbed his Thompson submachine gun and cut loose on the enemy; they never moved again. Without hesitation he picked up the German M.G. and fired from the hip with several blurts from the machine gun. He crawled forward about 20 feet in order to observe the enemy better. Manning the enemy M.G. he stayed in position all day. The Germans sent wave after wave trying to take our position. Miller fired continuously mowing them down. Later Pfc. Nichols described the action as a scene from a John Wayne movie with Miller firing from the hip yelling at the top of his voice.

Just forward to his left was high pile of rock which the enemy used as an aiming point. Enemy artillery and mortars tried to take Miller out but with no success. I say a soldier move up to Miller's position only to be blown to bits by an artillery shell a few minutes later. Later in the afternoon a soldier crawled up to the rock pile and climbed up on the top. Miller yelled for him to get down but it was too late. The top of his head came rolling down. Night came and Miller was almost in no-man's land, out of ammo. He yelled back, "Cover me while I go out and get ammo and grenades." He moved slowly into German lines always aware of bobby traps. It seemed like hours as he crawled out in enemy territory stripping the dead of ammunition, grenades, and rifles. Slowly he returned with the needed ammunition which was primarily for rifles. The necessitated working all night to clip the rifle ammunition together to form a machine gun belt to be used in his captured gun.

25 April

He was ready for the attack. At 0500 on April 25 the

Germans attacked. Wave after wave were sent in. Artillery and mortar fire were extremely heavy. Miller stayed in his position, firing constantly as the enemy attacked. Observing that our mortars were not firing directly in front of our position he called for mortar section to drop range another twenty-five yards. Replying from the mortar section Sgt. Preston said, "If we fire any closer, we'll fire on you." "Fire anyway," Miller yelled.

In the afternoon a German approached waving a white flag. Miller stopped firing for a second, not realizing the German had a machine gun strapped on his back and a gunner to man it. They approached slowly; all of a sudden they fell to a prone position. The enemy was trying to eliminate Miller's M.G. position, but instead, the instant they fell, Miller fired and eliminated a desperate German charge.

That night Miller again crawled out in enemy territory and brought back more ammo as well as German food as we had not eaten since the attack started.

The next morning was quiet; we had held our position. Later in the day I told the Whip, Miller's nickname, that the Bn. CO, Lt. Col. Kauffman wanted a count of the enemy dead. The vast majority was in front of 1st Sgt. Miller's position.

Co. F stayed in position until the 27th of April. The enemy had withdrawn but every night Miller could hear a wounded German soldier calling for help. After he heard this for two nights, early on the morning of the 27th Miller told our C.P. personnel he was going out to get the wounded German soldier. Miller walked out a couple of hundred yards, always aware of booby traps. He saw the wounded soldier and approached him with caution. The wounded man was hit in the right thigh, his leg twisted under him. He had been lying there for at least four days. Miller picked him up and carried him back to the C.P. He thanked Miller very much and wanted to give him his watch and wallet which Miller refused. When I arrived, I was mad as hell and said a few curse words. Capt. Urganowitz told me I should have left him out there to die. Later he was put on a stretcher and was soon evacuated.

1st Sgt. Miller is credited with killing at 50% of the enemy, personally saved the lives of S/Sgt. Boylan and Pfc. Nichols and numerous other American soldiers.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, 1st Sgt. Miller distinguished himself during the battle at Djebel Dardye. He exposed himself to both friendly and enemy fire, manned a machine gun position with an enemy M.G. for a period of two nights and three days, saving the lives of two American soldiers and killing approximately 50 enemy soldiers.

For this heroic action Miller was awarded the Silver Star. Note: If this had been 1944-45 he would have received CMH.

John adds that the members of 2nd Bn, 60th Inf. will never forget this battle.

MAIL CALL

Brigadier General Douglas Smith (Ret.)
47th Infantry CO, Vietnam

(The following is an email message sent to Mr. Robert Gleason who requested it be published)

Thanks for the message. Good to hear from you. The Mobile Riverine Force Assn. continues to hold bi-annual reunions honoring the 9th Inf. Div. and Navy elements of that Force. We have concentrated on the 47th Infantry Regiment gatherings. We had reunions at Fort Benning (where the 2/47 and 3/47 are located in 2003, 2005 and 2006. Our next is in 2008. Attendance is great and we have had as many as 5 WWII veterans attend. We honor them at our Regimental Dinner on the last night of the reunion. We are hosted by the active duty guys in the Ft. Benning Officers Club. It is a very impressive event to say the least. The current Commanding General at Benning served in the 2/47 at Fort Lewis, WA back in the early 80s. We also gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) every Veterans Day and lay wreaths for the 9th Inf. Div. and the 47th Inf. Regt. The Division Association of WWII vets, to which you belong, has no idea we do this every year. We have bonded as a "band of brothers" who care for each other without regard to race or ethnic background. We have a 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment Scholarship Fund that has reached over \$22,000 and provides at least one scholarship annually to a deserving relative of a 2/47 veteran. Our gang is alive and well and generous. I believe the so-called "greatest generation" could take some lessons from us. We will be meeting in early May 2008. I will send you an invite.

Warm regards,
 Doug

Per Army Lineage Office (202-761-5413) 9th Inf. Div. is credited with Vietnam service 5 Dec. 1966-27 Aug. 1969

Co. M & Hq.- 3/47th Infantry Regiment
Henry G. "Red" Phillips

[Redacted]

Dear Bill (Robey)

As you may know I've been writing about the 9th in WWII for some time and more recently have been building a collection of all books written by 9ers about the 9th. A new one has come to my attention, "One of Many" by Ralph Powell, once of Cannon Co., 47th, published by 3 Millennium Books of San Diego, CA in 2002. Then, he was living in Palm Desert, CA. I wish to make contact with Powell but have exhausted all leads. He has probably passed on since 2002 and may not have ever been a member of the 9th Div. Assn. Prior to living in Palm Desert, he owned a jewelry store in Sacramento, CA.

I compliment you on your helping out with the Secretary job of the Assn. and regret adding any burden.

With best wishes,
 "Red" Phillips

P.S. Another Cannon Co. officer you might look up for me—last name "Rasberger". Ever a member?

MAIL CALL

Second letter from "Red" Phillips

I have a photo of what may have been a memento made up by a 39th vet early in the German occupation. It is a rectangular silver-colored device about 2" tall, surmounting a bayonet. On the flat surface are the words "AAA-O" and "1945" and in the upper left corner of the device is a raised circle, perhaps a globe, representing "Anywhere" of the motto.

The device was found in an antique shop many years ago by the author of the new biography of Paddy Flint and he recognized the inscription. No other clues to its original owner exist, but it seems to me that he might have been a 39th soldier of some sentiment who wanted a memento of Colonel Flint and found a German jeweler who could make it up to order out of coin silver for a pack or two of cigarettes. How it ended up in the antique store is anyone's guess. But if my surmise is correct, there may be another 39th vet out there who recalls the thing and can give me a name of the originator. If so, please write to Red Phillips, 184 Northridge Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95945 or email hgphillips@mac.com.

Thanks, Red

1st Bn CO; 3rd Bn, I & K Co. CO-60th Infantry Regt.
LTC Leo C. "Pat" Williamson

[Redacted]

I am still alive and kicking. Would like to hear from any of my old buddies or those who served in the 1st Bn or 3rd Bn, 60th Infantry Regiment.

John H. Moore, SMSgt. USAF Retired
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

[Redacted]

Web: www.trea.org

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) is providing the Military Reunion Listings as a FREE service to the veteran community. I search the internet looking for reunions and then send requests for the information to the listed point of contact. I sent 2,162 reunion organizations e-mails requesting information to their 2006 reunions and unfortunately 35% failed to respond. We have 1,398 listings on the calendar year 2006 listing. With that, 7 May listing update we have over 1100 reunion listings for calendar years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Please take a look at our website, www.trea.org, scroll down the left side and click on Reunions/Buddies, and this will bring up the reunion page. As reunions are completed, they are transferred to the Completed Listing at the end of the month. There, they will remain as a reference point for someone looking for a unit contact. My intention is that each calendar year reunions will be individually listed.

I appreciate any help you can provide in getting the word out to the Veterans.

John

MAIL CALL

MAIL CALL

Co. M & Hq.- 3/47th Infantry Regiment
Henry G. "Red" Phillips

[Redacted]

I've been contacted by Michael D. Fraticelli of Philadelphia, PA who is the son of a former Coast Guard coxswain aboard the Thomas Stone, transport of the 2/39th Inf. on 7 November 1942 enroute to Algiers North Africa for Operation Torch. The Stone was torpedoed about 160 miles out of Algiers, losing all power. The 2/39th CO, Major Walter M. Oakes, after conferring with the Stone's skipper, decided he should load his troops aboard available landing craft and proceed on the battalion's mission. A British corvette, HMS Spey had responded to the Stone's call for help when torpedoed and would accompany Oakes flotilla loaded with about 800 men of the 2/39th RCT, fuel for the landing craft plus supporting weapons. They headed for Algiers.

Unfortunately, the weather was turning sour at this time and it got worse as they proceeded. The troops became seasick. The landing craft were taking water from the waves or their engines were failing. Only the leading LC's had compasses so when a boat faltered, the column had to wait for repairs to be made. Finally, the conditions were so bad Major Oakes and the skipper of HMS Spey determined that all the troops should be loaded on the corvette and it would take them to Algiers. This task was accomplished without the loss of a single soldier. Oakes and his battalion caught up with the 39th RCT in Algiers, tired, wet and hungry but ready to celebrate the victory at Algiers.

I am anxious to help Michael Fraticelli and a few thoughts come to mind.

Lt. Col. Oakes and his H Co. CO, Capt. Warren Walters were captured by the Germans at El Gerettar. Walter's retired from the Army as a Colonel and was last heard from when living in Columbus, GA. No one seems to know what happened to Oakes after the war.

There was once a 2/39th vet who became a monastery monk after the war and made some contact with the former crew of the Spey. There was an article about it once in The Octofoil. I would like to learn his name and whereabouts.

Likewise, I would appreciate any information on the post war career of Lt. Col. Oakes and his present whereabouts.

Red Phillips

Co. L—39th Inf.
Victor A. Larson

[Redacted]

Germany, May 15, 1945

Hi there old fox hole buddy. How in the hell are you these days, how is the old leg coming along? Well Gronskey, Durkins and Downs were all back with us. But Downs got himself hit so he is back in hospital somewhere, as yet I

MAIL CALL

MAIL CALL

haven't heard from him. Sgt. Black got himself some sore feet and went back sometime in Feb. Soon after you got in the of that 4.2. He is not coming back to the outfit so I hear, Halfon cut himself on a c ration can and is in the hospital. Handley got in the way of something or other and he to is in the hospital.

You know by God there aren't many of us left that used to hang out around the fire at Elsenborn rest area. Sgt. Cutis is home on rotation or furlow or something. Pancho got hit in March. As for myself, well outside of some sore feet, a 3 hour hike today just for fun, I'm in fairly good health.

There is one thing you can do for me, just pray with me that I can be lucky enough to get home before Xmas of 1945. And, if you ever get to Coraopolis, Pa. don't forget to stop and see me if I am home, and if not, you can say hello to my family for me. Well Gronskey and I have decided to let you keep the crown of the biggest bullshit slinger of L Co., 39th Inf., 1st Platoon, 1st Squad. After all you retired with the crown so why should we do anything to take it away from you.

Sorry you could not of been here for the finish. But I know you had enough. I had enough the first of Jan. and I don't mean maybe. But darn it I am still here sweating out C.B.I. or army of occupation. I sure wish I knew which is was going to be.

Well I guess that is about all for this time. I'll let you know how I make out later.

Good luck with your leg.

Your fox hole buddy
 Pop King

P.S. I forgot to tell you Captain McClennan got killed. I think it was on Easter Sunday. You know we all thought a lot of him. He had only been a Capt. about two or three weeks, it sure was a tough break. Well I think that is about all. Except Lt. Ross is our new C.O.

May 21, 2007

I received the attached letter while convalescing at Newton D. Baker US Army Hospital in 1945. Oliver (Pop) King was a good man and a gentleman. At 37 years young he was known to us kids as Pop. He came from Coraopolis, Pa. In the letter Pop refers to Gronskey who was 19 years old and came from a town close to Pittsburgh.

When I was discharged from Percy Jones Hospital I stopped in Pa. and visited with Pop and his family. That was the last time I saw him.

Victor Larson

JACK MAYER
Brother Sebastian
Pine Hill, N.Y.

MAIL CALL

Robert A. Watts

I want to "Re-Up" my life membership and the rest to the "Tip of the Hat." This is for all my Army buddies who have gone on to a better life.

Originally I was sent to Barton Stacey in England to "A" Battery, 34th F.A. Bn. Just before the invasion to Winchester Barracks, "K" Co., 47th Inf. Regt. Later to Cannon Co., 47th Inf. Regt. still in Winchester.

This is for Dan Quinn. The new Octofoil is a great contribution to you and all the others who have kept the Association and celebrations going, so accept it.

This is for Red Phillips. Thanks so much for the history of the Ninth Division and all associated books to read. I enjoy talking to Red from time to time.

My wife, Jenny, enjoyed meeting the ladies in the auxiliary at our reunions. She passed away 3 years ago. We had been married 58 years.

Many thanks to all who have kept the Association and Octofoil active.

I would like to hear from any of our members. I wish I could be in attendance.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Watts

Ernest G. Micka

Was sorry to read in our last issue of the Octofoil that Charlie Hoffman passed away.

Charlie was another one of us "originals" that arrived at Ft. Bragg in early Feb. 1941. Can't be too many of us left.

Charlie was a good soldier and a jovial type of guy-always ready to laugh or tell a joke-the kind you're lucky to have around. We'll miss him.

Please accept enclosed check for 3 yrs. Dues with remainder for the Memorial Fund in honor of:

Charlie Hoffman
"B" Co., 15th Engrs.
3rd Platoon

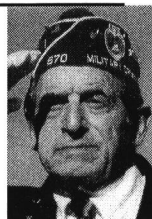
Thank you.
Ernest G. Micka

Joseph A. Guaricci

Would like to hear from anybody who was in the Hürtgen Forest. I was wounded there on October 8, 1944 and remember being with the Heavy Weapons Company of the 60th Infantry Regiment.

I found your reunion notice in the VFW magazine and contacted Bill Robey for membership details. Thank you.

Joseph A. Guaricci



Memorial Day 2002
Past Commander
Military Order of
Purple Heart

continued from page 2

BY-LAWS CHANGES

Vice Presidents, a SECRETARY-TREASURER, and a Judge Advocate.

Section 2: The term of office of the SECRETARY-TREASURER shall be for Three years, from the time of election.

Article XI, Title to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER.

Section 1: SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER

Section 2: SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER

Section 3: SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER

General Fund Paragraph: TREASURER to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER

Section 4: TREASURER to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER

Article XII, Section 2: SECRETARY to be changed to SECRETARY-TREASURER

If there are any other locations in the by-laws where the SECRETARY or the word TREASURER appear alone, they are to be changed to read SECRETARY-TREASURER.

These proposed changes are submitted by Board of Governors members Marty Gross and Ralph Williams, both of the Florida Chapter.

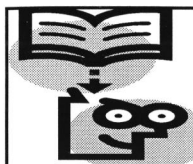
The following proposed changes are submitted by John Clouser, a past National President of the Association.

Article V: Board of Governors:

Section 6: New Section: The Board of Governors is authorized to appoint members of the "Sons and Daughters Auxiliary of the Ninth Infantry Division Association" to positions assisting officers of the Association, when and if necessary to enable the Association to continue functioning properly.

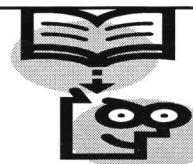
The Board of Governors shall define the tasks to be performed by assistants to officers. The appointed assistants shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Governors.

**The Deadline for the
submission of copy for the
next issue is Sept. 20, 2007**



The Literary Ninth

by Mr. Henry G. "Red" Phillips



A new feature is being introduced in this issue called "The Literary Ninth" by Mr. Henry G. "Red" Phillips. It is a work-in-progress bibliography of all the various books that have been published over the years by Ninth Division veterans, relatives, friends as well as books about the Ninth. In addition, book reviews by "Red" Phillips will also be published. Thanks to Mr. Claude Berghorn for his help with the bibliography. Please send others that you may know about for listing in the bibliography to the editor. Ninth authors unit affiliation's are in (parenthesis).

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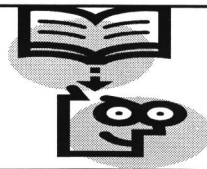
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(continued on next page)

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Book Reviews

by "Red" Phillips

Baldrige, Robert C. (84th FA Bn). Victory Road.

Influenced by a father who was a World War I veteran and active reserve officer, the son participated in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) while attending high school and Yale University. He was only at Yale for two years before he enlisted and was given basic and artillery training before being shipped to England as a replacement in 1943. Baldrige was subsequently assigned to the 9th Infantry Division's military police platoon. His protests of mis-management were eventually heard and he was transferred to the 34th Field Artillery Battalion of the 9th shortly before D-Day. The 34th, armed with 155mm howitzers, was the general support artillery of the division; it backed up the fires of the 105mm pieces of the three battalions generally supporting the infantry regiments. Its commander at this time was Lt. Col. William C. Westmoreland, later to become the Army's Chief of Staff. In combat, Baldrige became a corporal and later received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant.

Blann, Jack R. (E Co., 47th Inf.). A Private's Diary: The Battle of Germany as Seen Through the Eyes of An 18 Year Old Infantry Rifleman.

Blann joined E Company as a raw replacement in Feb. '45 near Schmidt, Germany, one of the few settlements in the gloomy, dank Hürtgen Forest. Having promised his father to keep him informed of his experiences, the dutiful son kept a diary notwithstanding security orders not to do this. It led to his well-written, self-published memoir which covers a small but important part of the 9th Infantry Division's action in the European Theater, enlarging the Remagen Bridgehead. Surviving the bloody Hürtgen, Blann crossed the Roer River at Duren and his unit attacked east the town of Geich. Here, mortar shrapnel caught him in the back, and he ended up in the 65th General Hospital where they operated and rested him for 13 days and then shipped him back to his unit. By this time, the 9th had crossed the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen. Blann rejoined E Company on 26 March for some of the most ferocious fighting of the war. He made it all in one piece, surviving until Victory in Europe (VE) Day and, finally, discharge from the Army.

Burns, Sam and Ward O. Payne (F Co., 39th Inf.). The Fox Company.

This book is a compilation of mini-biographies of 56 former members of F Company, 39th Infantry Regiment, put together with a forwarding biography of F Company's one-time 2nd Battalion Commander, Brigadier General Frank L. Gunn (U.S. Army retired), who served in all eight campaigns of the 9th Infantry Division, in every command position of the 39th, from platoon leader to regimental commander. Study of this book will provide a good picture of the typical 9th GI.

Old Reliables Lending Library

The bibliography has a considerable number of out-of-print books which is a source of frustration for a serious Ninth student. Mr. Terry Barnhart and Mr. "Red" Phillips have proposed the establishment of the "Old Reliables Lending Library" for the books listed as well as any other books that deal with the Ninth Infantry Division history. If you or any of your family members would like to donate your books to establish the lending library please contact the editor.

There are no doubt many organizational questions that must be answered so all inputs are certainly welcome. To start it seems that the borrower would pay all shipping/handling charges and a small rental fee (to be determined) to the Association. This lending program would be on the honor system so that all books could be shared equally and in a timely manner.

If someone would like to **volunteer** to help organize this library please contact the editor. Library management skills would be helpful but certainly not a requirement.

TAPS OBITUARIES

continued from page 7

On January 19, 1946 at St. Mary Church in Jewett City, he was united in marriage to Nellie (Misiorek) Gustamachio who died October 21, 1997. He was also predeceased by a brother John Gustamacnio.

Surviving is his son Paul J. Gustamachio of Greenwood, SC; his daughter Marie A Camp of Norwich; three grandchildren, Matthew, Peter and Emily Camp; two brothers, Ralph and Donald Gustamachio both of East Hartford; two sisters, Anna Toole of Norwich, and Frances Brown of Uncasville, also several nieces and nephews.

Visitation 9 to 10:30 AM Tuesday at the Labenski Funeral Home, 107 Boswell Ave., Norwich, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph Church at 11 AM. Interment to follow in St. Joseph Cemetery with Military Honors. In lieu of flowers, those who prefer, may make donations in his memory to St. Joseph School, 120 Cliff St., Norwich, CT 06360.

Pasquale L. "Pat" DeColli 1920—2007

Pasquale L. "Pat" DeColli on June 13, 2007 of South Philadelphia, age 87, WWII veteran, Battle of the Bulge. Husband of the late (nee Bonanno). Brother of Marie Androni. Brother-in-law of Donald Raggio and Adele DeColli. Brother of the late Theresa Libertonej, Francis Maiale, Victoia Abramo, Concetta Rifkin, Viola Raggio, Louise Brunone and Vincent DeColli. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great great nieces and nephews. Relatives and friends are invited to his Funeral Wednesday, 8:30 AM. Leonetti-O'Leary Funeral Home Inc., corner Broad and Wolf Streets and to his viewing Tuesday evening 7-9. Funeral Mass Wednesday 9:30AM Epiphany of Our Lord Church, 11th and Jackson Streets. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery.



Edwin Lusk 1918—2006

Edwin Lusk died March 15, 2006 from complications from prostate cancer. The son of George Hubert Lusk and Mary Hazel Lockhart, Mr. Lusk was born on Nov. 5, 1918 on a small farm in Grundy County, Tennessee and attended the first eight grades of school at Marvin's Chapel School, where his father was the only teacher. He graduated from high school in Tracy City, TN at the age of 16, and from the University of Tennessee in May, 1941 with a major in Agronomy. While at UT, he was in ROTC and on the UT Rifle Team, which, in his senior year, won first place at the National Intercollegiate competition and the Southeastern Randolph Hearst Trophy.

Mr. Lusk was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and in August, 1941, he was ordered to active duty at Fort Bragg, NC and assigned to "B" Company of the 60th Infantry, 9th Division. He attended a 2-month Weapons & Tactics course at Fort Benning, GA and in Dec. 1941, was transferred to "M" Company of the 3rd Bn., 60th Inf. He was then selected to go to Norfolk, VA to work with the Navy and load combat battalions onto naval ships.

Mr. Lusk participated in the invasion of North Africa on 8 Nov. 1942 under the overall command of Gen. George Patton. In Morocco he was promoted to Battalion S-3 by Comdr. Lt. Col John J. Toffey, and led the battalion across North Africa to Tunisia. There he was in several battles against Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's seasoned troop, the Afrika Corps. Mr. Lusk was wounded on 8 April 1943 at the Battle of Maknassy, Tunisia by an artillery shell that exploded 6 inches from his right leg. After spending 3 and 1/2 months in hospitals from Tunisia to Oran, Algeria, he was promoted to Captain and then returned to duty as ship-loading inspector at 3rd Port Headquarters in Oran, Algeria.

Mr. Lusk returned to the U.S. in May 1944 and was an instructor in Combat Tactics at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA. On 20 Aug. 1944, he married Mary Virginia Higgins of Elora, TN. In July 1945, he was transferred to G-2 at the Pentagon and worked there until he was discharged from the Regular Army in Dec. 1945. He spent 20 more years in the Army Active Reserves and was promoted to Lt. Col. On 26 June 1951. He retired from service in November, 1978.

Mr. Lusk's professional career began in 1946 with mapping soils in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the Univ. of Tennessee. In 1953, he accepted a job with The Prudential Financial in Knoxville, TN. He was transferred to Birmingham, AL in 1975 and retired from the company in Nov. 1978.

Mr. Lusk was a passionate gardener, fisherman and hunter and was a proud member of the Abbott Hunting Club in Shelby County. He also belonged to the Alabama Wildflower Society, the Birmingham Fern Society, the VFW, Military Officers of America, the Combat Infantry Association, and received a 50-yr. pin from the Corinthian Lodge #462 F.& A.M. in Alabaster, AL.

Mr. Lusk is survived by his wife of 61 years, Mary Virginia Higgins Lusk; daughter Anne Virginia Lusk Moore Kitchens (Richard Wright Kitchens), Huntsville, AL; son George Edwin Lusk (Martha June Chauvin Lusk), Covington, LA; daughter Susan Florence Lusk Kelley (Frank Kelley), Boston, MA; grandchildren, Christopher Lee Moore, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Margaret Lillian Kelley, Boston, MA; sister Janie Muriel Lusk Hurst (Kenneth Hurst), Chattanooga, TN; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, 19 March at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Homewood, AL, where Ed was a member for more than thirty years. Visitation will be before the service from 2:00—3:00. Burial will be at 11:00 AM Monday, 20 March at the Elora Cemetery in Elora, TN Lincoln County. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to either the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes, P.O. Box 361767, B'ham, AL 35236 or to the Alabama Wildflower Society Scholarship Fund, Margie Anderson, Treasurer, 271 Co. Rd. 68, Killen, AL 35645

Reunion Command Post Directions

From Detroit:

Take I-96 to Exit 43B (28th St. East). The exit will take you to the right. Continue on 28th St. through one stoplight, which is Kraft Ave. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just after the stoplight.

From Chicago:

Take I-94 towards Michigan. At I-94 exit 34 bear left onto I-196. I-196 will turn into I-96. Take I-96 to Exit 43B. Exit will curve to the right and will take you back under the highway. Continue on 28th St. through one stoplight, which is Kraft Ave. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just after the stoplight.

From Traverse City:

Take Hwy. 72 to Kalkaska US 131 South. Take to I-96 East. Take exit 43B (28th St. East). Exit will curve to the right and take you back under the highway. Continue on 28th St. through one stoplight. The Crowe Plaza will be on your right just after the stoplight.

From Lansing:

Take I-96 West to Exit 43B, Exit will take you to the right. The first light will be Kraft Ave. Proceed through the light. The Crowe Plaza will be on your right just passed the light.

From Benton Harbor:

Take I-94 to I-196. I-196 will turn into I-96. Follow to Exit 43B. Exit will take you to the right. You will go back under the highway. Continue on 28th St. to the first light, which is Kraft Ave. Proceed through the light. The Crowe Plaza will be on your right just passed the light.



TAPS TRIBUTES

continued from page 8

Jim Dawson Hq Co.-47th Infantry Regiment

It was a sad day when Chuck Dawson called to tell me his dad, Jim, had passed away. I had been privileged to nominate Jim for the Association's presidency last year in Branson, MO.

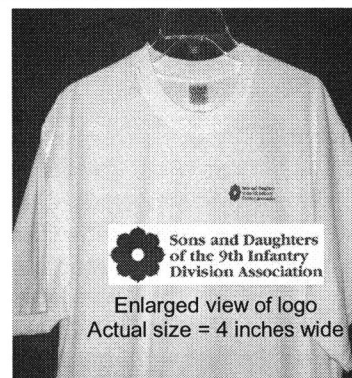
Jim, in the short time permitted him created a new spirit in our Association. He made us proud to serve and work with him. He was the ideal mediator and it was all done in a quiet yet forceful manner.

Jim, we salute you for your courage and inspiration.

Herb Stern
12427 Old Oaks Dr.
Houston, TX 77024

Sons and Daughters Auxiliary Fundraiser

Get your official Sons and Daughters T-Shirt from the only authorized source. **Order now before they are gone!!** Available sizes are S, M, L, XL, XXL. Outfit the whole family.



The shirts are made by Gildan Active Wear from 100% cotton and preshrunk. They are machine washable and tumbled dry. Price is \$10.00 per shirt which includes shipping and handling costs. Can't beat a deal like this!!

Payment by **CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY.**

Make payable to **Mary Cooper** and send your request with sizes and quantities and payment to:

Mary Cooper

Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery after receipt of order. Shipped by USPS. All profits go to "The Octofoil" production expenses.

62nd Annual Reunion
Friday to Sunday—August 17, 18, and 19, 2007

Crowne Plaza Hotel
5700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

Make payments by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to: "62nd Reunion 2007"

Mail the completed Registration Form with payment to:

William G. Robey, Reunion Co-Chairman
1005 Elkhart Street, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Deposits of \$150.00 per person must be made by May 15, 2007. Final payments **MUST BE MADE BY JULY 1, 2007.** Reservations made after July 1, 2007 will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by July 1, 2007, then the deposit will be refunded. All reservations **MUST BE MADE** with this form. **DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT.** For more information, call Bill Robey, toll free at 1-866-229-2377, pin #3322. You may use a copy of the registration form if you do not want to cut up your Octofoil.

ROOM RESERVATION FORM

Arrival Date _____

Departure Date _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

9th Div Unit (Regt., Co., Btry): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell/Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

If other than M/M, I will share with: _____

Special Requests (Handicap Room, Special Diet, etc.): _____

ROOM RATES PER PERSON: for our 3 night stay, which includes rooms, beer party, banquet, 3 breakfasts, including gratuities for these events only, and Saturday night entertainment.

Accommodations-Please circle below: **These prices are PER PERSON**

SINGLE
\$488.00

DOUBLE
\$362.00

TRIPLE
\$324.00

QUAD
\$290.00

Hotel will give us the same special rate for 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion for those who want to stay longer in Grand Rapids. Please indicate on form if you wish extra days. Cost will be added to above. The costs for meals, etc., will be figured separately for those who only want to attend functions and not stay at the hotel. Check with Bill Robey at above phone number for these costs.

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to: The Ninth Infantry Division Association, Inc.

Send to: William G. Robey, Treasurer

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name: _____ Serial No. _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

I was a member of:

Battery: _____ Company: _____ Regiment: _____ Other 9th Unit: _____

I wish to sign up for the following: (circle one or more)

Life Membership: a one time fee of \$75.00 Three Year Member: \$35.00 Regular Member per year: \$15.00

Ladies Auxiliary Member per year: \$3.00 Sons and Daughters Auxiliary Member per year: \$5.00

I wish to make a donation to the following: (circle one or more and fill in the amount)

Sustaining Member: \$ _____ Memorial Donation: \$ _____ In Memory Of: _____

I wish to purchase the following: YES or NO (circle one)

Ninth Infantry Division Association Decals: 2 for \$1.00

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Chapter to be designated: (circle one)

Philadelphia—Delaware Valley Greater New York Michigan Illinois

Florida New England Texas and the Greater South West NONE

PHOTOCOPY AS REQUIRED

ASSNMEM FORM REV A 3/2007

Officers and Board of Governors October 2006

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Officers

Thomas Hatton, President—
Office Vacant—1st VP
Elmer Wagner—2nd VP—
Emil Langer—3rd VP—
William G. Robey—Treas.—
George Brown—Jdg. Adv.—
National Secretary—Office Vacant ; William G. Robey, ACTING

Board Members-Terms Expiring 2007

Jack A. Collier—
Elmer Wagner—
Jack R. Blann—
Martin R. Gross—
Anthony Varone—
Albert Perna—

Terms Expiring 2008

Joseph Maiale—
Lawrence Kaufman—
Herbert Stern—

Terms Expiring 2009

Leo Hope—
Adolph Wadalavage—Resigned 4/23/07, Medical Reasons
Richard Irwin—
Ralph Williams—
Robert Lewis—

Editor

William Sauers—

NEW MEMBERS

Luther N. Beam—Hq Co., 47th Inf., Bowdon, GA
George W. Bentley Jr.—Co. B, 47th Inf., Edgewater, FL
Raymond K. Berger—Co. C, 60th Inf., Port Charlotte, FL
Edsel Croan—Co. F, 47th Inf., San Antonio, TX
John Gronsky—Co. L, 39th Inf., Montgomery Village, MD
Joseph A. Guaricci—106th Gen. Hosp., New Milford, CT
Roderick MacLennan—Co. C, 47th Inf., Bennett, CO
Robert J. Patterson—39th Inf., Stillwater, NY

RE-UP

"RE-UP" LIFE MEMBERS

We thank the following "re-up" life members for their generous contribution:

Robert A. Watts—Cannon Co., 47th Inf., Richmond, VA

MISSING MEMBERS ROSTER

We need your help to locate the following members. Octofoil's have been returned with no forwarding address. If you know their whereabouts, please contact the editor. Thank you.

John H. DeGraff, Raleigh, NC
Harold Gebhardt, Phoenix, AZ
William Hilton, Rock Hill, SC
M.A. Kiser, Fairfax, VA
Vincent Mann, West Orange, NJ
James J. McNamee, Madison, VA
Louis Mojica, Gulfport, MS

Mrs. R.J. Nichols, South Dennis, MA
Frances Nugent, Green Valley, AZ
Harold F. Schatz Jr., Mount Joy, PA
Anthony M. Tooley, Pewaukee, WI
John Young, Sawyer, OK

SONS and DAUGHTERS AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

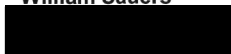
Get your heirloom mug while they last!
This is an 11 oz. white ceramic mug with the logo on both sides.
It is dishwasher and microwave safe.

All profits will be used to defray "The Octofoil" production expenses.

Payment by **CHECK or MONEY ORDER ONLY.**

1 mug = \$9.95
2 mug set = \$14.95
3 mug set = \$19.95
4 mug set = \$24.95

Send payment made payable to:
William Sauers



Price includes shipping/handling. Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery after receipt of order. Include phone number or email for delivery notification.
Shipped by USPS Parcel Post.



**GOING
FAST!!!**



THE OCTOFOIL

2960 West 234th Street
Torrance, CA 90505

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 48
MERRIFIELD VA 220

